

11/18/99



APESANAHKWAT

Chair Provides Update on Kenosha, Other Issues

Greetings Fellow Menominee's,

I want to thank those of you who have supported my candidacy and hope that you will continue to through the general election in January.

Now that the primary election is over, we can start discussing important issues that concern all of us such as the per capita payment that we included in the budget this year. You know the Legislature placed that in the budget on their own. No one convinced us to do it. Secondly, on the per capita payment from the government judgment, we the Legislature, decided to pay approximately \$2,000 per Menominee. We decided singularly as well as collectively to do that. Again, nobody convinced us to do that. There are those who have tried to convince you that it was them alone! Imagine!

The most important issue to all of us is the **Kenosha Project**. We've begun negotiating with the State of Wisconsin and when we are finished we must convince BIA and NIGC (National Indian Gaming Commission) just how important this is to us. Never in anyone's wildest imagination could we have thought that the possibility of economic independence and prosperity would or could visit us. It's more than possible, but there also exists the reality that the BIA might reject the whole proposal for whatever reason. We feel very confident that we can persuade them that this is not only equitable for the Tribe, but extremely beneficial as well.

I want to commend James "Jokey" Eritrea and Laurie "Molly Fish" Eritrea for the jobs they've done these past three (3) years. You know there were those whom you chose not to vote for who told you that the Casino has had its' worst year since the Legislature became the Board. The truth as you know it is the first year we took over the responsibility of the Board, the casino made \$3 million more than the year before. In year two, we made \$5 million more and in this last year we will have made \$6 million more than when we utilized our micro managing board and you know who they were.

I'm pleased to see we are continuing to make money in our investment program. You know, fellow Menominee's, it is so difficult to understand the stock market and that whole business. We've been fortunate to have an Indian owned company manage our portfolio but even more importantly, they have continuously came to the council meetings to advise and familiarize the council members on investments and how to make determinations about investing.

I've said it before and I want to reaffirm that fact that this Legislature, the current members including the incumbents, (Wander"Aim" Askenette and Eugene "Gene" Caldwell) have made a difference in what we've been able to accomplish. I know there are some candidates that could probably bring some good things to the council, but right now we need to continue with the team that has made progress and we need them to continue, especially to get the Kenosha Project finished.

So, thank you and please continue to support myself and the other two incumbents.

Sincerely,

Apesanahkwat
Honorable Tribal Chairman